

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Career Decision-Making Self-Efficacy Among High School Students in Selected Public and Private Schools in Bangkok, Thailand

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Career development is a lifelong process that can be fostered through education programs and interventions at all levels, but specifically during the last years of high school. It is very common for school graduates to ponder about their choice of major and to pick a specific career during the last years of high school. Therefore it is extremely important for schools to offer career related activities and guidance aimed to help students make more informed and constructive educational and career choices. The literature review in this study compares and contrasts research of factors that influence career decision-making among different groups stressing early interventions in a field of career development.

The objective of this study was to collect and evaluate high school students' opinions on their future plans evaluating their adulthood readiness through examining their decision-making self-efficacy. The purpose is to make secondary education clearer and more effective to the students as well as to the administrators. Recommendations were made for educators and counselors to help aid them in their role of assisting students in building up their career choices based on their beliefs, self perceptions and interests.

The high school students were evaluated on career awareness through an evaluation of their future plans, attitudes, and current opinions on exploring careers and acquire basic knowledge and skills that can foster confidence in making job-oriented decisions after high school graduation. Surveys were conducted among high school students in public and private schools. The results indicate that scores on the CDSSES-SF were somewhat reliable (internal consistency reliability = .70) with this sample of Thai high school students. The results showed that school type and gender were related with regard of career decision-making self-efficacy beliefs, as well as relationship was found within school type and grade level. Differences in career decision-making self-efficacy beliefs within grade level and gender found no significant relationship. The study was conducted to show the needs for professional training as a part of school curricula where the current job demand is the key factor in creation of outlines for Career Training courses.